REMARKS

Claims 3-11 and 14-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3-8 and 11 have been amended hereby. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-6 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-9, 11, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0181603 ("Rajahalme") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0083209 ("Saint-Hilaire"); and of the rejection of Claims 10 and 16, as being obvious over Rajahalme in view of Saint-Hilaire and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0133634 ("Luke").

Claim 3 has been amended in part to be placed in independent form, and to recite all the limitations of Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Rajahalme and Saint-Hilaire fails to teach or suggest a load balancer in which predetermined lower bits of a source address of a packet utilizing a stateless address configuration method, not a home address as in Rajahalme, are used as the identifying information. Fig. 1 ("access router 5"), and paragraph [0023] of Rajahalme, cited for these features, at best are disclosing "replacing a care-of address in a source address of a packet with a home address." Saint-Hilaire fails to cure this deficiency.

Claim 4 has been amended in part to be placed in independent form, and to recite all the limitations of Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Rajahalme and Saint-Hilaire fails to teach or suggest a load balancer in which a security parameter index is used as the identifying information. Fig. 1, and paragraph [0020] of Rajahalme, cited for these features, at best are disclosing "security functions." Saint-Hilaire fails to cure this deficiency.

Claim 5 has been amended in part to recite a load balancer in which when the care-of address of the mobile IP terminal has changed in the arrival packet, the load balancer requests the home agent to notify a change of a care-of address to the load balancer itself. It is respectfully submitted that Fig. 1, and paragraphs [0041], [0047], and [0048] of Rajahalme, cited for these features, are silent regarding these features. Saint-Hilaire fails to cure this deficiency.

Claim 6 has been amended in part to recite a load balancer in which when the care-of address of the mobile IP terminal has changed in the arrival packet, the load balancer request the terminal to notify a change of a care-of address to the load balancer itself. It is respectfully submitted that Fig. 1, and paragraphs [0041], [0047], and [0048] of Rajahalme, cited for these features, are silent regarding these features. Saint-Hilaire fails to cure this deficiency.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Rajahalme in paragraph [0047], cited for some of the aforementioned features, merely discloses deriving a home address from a binding cache with a care-of address (transmitting source address) being made a key, and replacing the care-of address with the home address as specified by a "mobile IP home address option."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 3-6, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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